



## **Ronald S. Markham**

### **President and CEO, The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Inc.**

*Enhancing every day of life with Jazz.*

Ronald S. Markham is President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Inc., (NOJO); New Orleans' premiere performing arts institution dedicated to presenting authentic, engaging and transformative Jazz experiences.

With unbridled commitment to New Orleans culture and Jazz music, Markham was appointed CEO and President by NOJO founder and artistic director Irvin Mayfield in 2002. He oversees touring, financial management, fundraising, corporate and strategic planning for the New Orleans-based, performing arts institution. Under Markham's leadership, NOJO has strengthened the business of jazz through national tours, local performances, educational partnerships and branded entertainment platforms.

Markham, 31, successfully launched the national tours of its critically acclaimed 16-piece big band orchestra, quintet and duo. With nearly 40 dates per year at prominent performing arts venues and clubs including Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Ravinia Festival in Chicago, The Dakota Club in Minneapolis and Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, NOJO has become one of the most successful touring jazz orchestra's in the country.

Through collaborations and partnerships, Markham has positioned NOJO as the leading organization that is working to fortify the Jazz industry in New Orleans. Towards this end, in 2008, Markham developed the New Orleans Jazz Institute (NOJI) at the University of New Orleans, a program that provides advanced music instruction and performance opportunities to UNO music students. In partnership with, the UNO Capitol One Charter School Network, NOJI has developed a

landmark Saturday Music School program for elementary school students. In 2006, Markham also forged a partnership with Tulane University, where its administrative offices are based, to present Jazz programming to the University community.

In 2003, under Markham's leadership, NOJO developed a partnership with Dillard University, creating the Institute of Jazz Culture (IOJC), a program that focuses on the study of cultural elements affected and created as a result of jazz music. On the strength of the institutions mandate and superior execution, Mr. Markham obtained a highly competitive economic development grant from the City of New Orleans-the first of its kind granted by the city to an independent jazz institution.

Markham successfully secured a major gift from the Nathan Cummings Foundation to document New Orleans jazz material culture, some of which was damaged and lost in the storm and secured a three-year residency relationship with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in cooperation with Prudential Financial, Inc.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Markham worked diligently to restart the cultural economy of Jazz by securing housing for staff and musicians. Just weeks after the re-opening of the city, in partnership with the Christ Church Cathedral, Markham produced All the Saints, a free Jazz concert that served as the cultural and spiritual reawakening of the devastated city. Currently, several of NOJO's musicians remain displaced from their pre-Katrina homes.

A native of New Orleans, LA, Markham attended the University of New Orleans where he earned a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and he studied music at the city's famed New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

Markham serves on the Board of Directors of The Audubon Nature Institute, and is also a member of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassador program, a volunteer group formed in 2007 to spread the message that New Orleans is an economically viable, livable city with a long-range recovery plan in progress.